



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Disability Commission Minutes 02/15/2006

ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 15, 2006

Members Present: Lin Baker, Barbara Cutler, Barbara Jones, Kevin O'Brien,
Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Susan James, Louis Krodel

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Others Present: Paolo Marinelli, Resident & Pedestrian Advocate

Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Jack said that the Commission on Disability submitted four articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Paolo read to the members the following the four articles that were submitted.

Article 8 – BYLAW AMENDMENT/CURB SNOW REMOVAL

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws and/or take any other necessary action so that the Town snow removal program includes the clearing of curb cuts to increase accessibility and pedestrian safety throughout the Town; or take any action related thereto.

Article 9 – BYLAW AMENDMENT/SNOW REMOVAL DONALD R. MARQUIS MINUTEMAN TRAIL

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws and/or take any other necessary action so that the Town snow removal program includes the complete clearing of the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail in order to increase accessibility and pedestrian safety; or take any action related thereto.

ARTICLE 10 – BYLAW AMENDMENT/UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION ACCESS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws and/or take any other necessary action so that the Town adopts a policy that encourages the use of universal design in residential construction and renovation to facilitate access for people with disabilities and "aging in place" for all Arlington residents; or take any action related thereto.

ARTICLE 11 – BYLAW AMENDMENT/SMOOTHER SIDEWALKS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws and/or take any other necessary action so that the Town adopts a policy of replacing brick curb cuts, sidewalks and crosswalks in need of repair with smoother, safer, and more easily accessible surfaces; or take any action related thereto.

Tom Boudreau Memorial Gift Fund:

Jack said that the gift fund has received to date \$1,200 in donations, with all the donations to date having been acknowledged. Barbara

C. requested that Commission Members consider over the next month how to appropriately spend the funds received, which may exceed the \$1,200 received to date.

CDBG FY 2006 Program Year 31 Status Report:

Jack said that during the first seven months of CDBG Program Year 31 twenty-two curb cut ramps were installed along Massachusetts Avenue in addition to sidewalk repair work.

CDBG FY 2007 Program Year 32 Requests:

Lin made a motion seconded by Barbara J. to request \$200,000 in CDBG funds in Program Year 32 to continue with the curb cut project. Barbara C. said any new funds should be used to finish curb cut work along Massachusetts Avenue, install curb cut ramps on Broadway, Warren St., Arlington Center, and in the area of School Buildings. Barbara C. requested that a survey of curb cuts be done on Warren St., Broadway and in Arlington Center.

Cypress E. Dallin Elementary School Accessibility Issues:

Jack said that the Town has decided to close the stairs leading from the Dallin School to the adjacent playfield to all individuals. This response was not the resolution that the Mass. Office on Disability had hoped for but the response was determined to be an acceptable solution to this issue of providing equal access. The Town has said that when funding for improvements to this playfield become available the Town will consider replacing the stairs with a ramp and reopening the path of travel from the Dallin School Building to the playfield for all individuals. The Town has placed a chain across the stairs preventing access.

Community Development Update:

Kevin said that Commonwealth Magazine has published an article claiming that the Town has passed laws that have limited construction of housing, within the Town. Kevin said that this shows that there are two sides to all issues with many residents in the opinion that the Town has allowed to many housing units to be constructed over the past several years.

Other Business:

Barbara C. said that at the March Meeting the Commission should discuss the issue of Commission Membership.

Jack said that Bruce Bruneau has inquired if Arlington would consider hosting Community Access Monitor Training during September 2006. Jack said that the registration fee of \$15 for non-professionals and \$85 for professionals would go to the host community. Bruce said the hosting community would be expected to provide coffee and either muffins or doughnuts in the morning and sandwiches with soda and coffee at lunch. Also the hosting community will be expected to copy all literature that will be given to participants. Commission members agreed that the Mass. Office on Disability should be responsible for copying their own literature and that the Town would be limited to locations for this training with the schools not being available in September. Maureen suggested contacting a local church regarding available space. The Commission agreed that further consideration regarding this request would be given before making a final decision to host the event.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. said that on February 16th she would be providing testimony at the State House regarding her opposition to the practice of mainly one institution that causes physical pain to change an individual's behavior. Barbara said that preventing sleep, food deprivation and electric shocks are still used after 21 years of legislative attempts to end this type of behavior modifications.

Barbara C. said that legislation to expand criminal record searches to a national level would also be discussed at the State House Hearing.

Paolo said that the TAC is requesting advice as to additional locations for Thermo Plastic Applications within the Town. Barbara J. suggested the crosswalks in Arlington Heights and the crossing at Downey Square as possible locations for Thermo Plastic Applications.

Paolo said that the concrete block at the end of Varnum St. has been moved so as provide a 36" path of travel, but the width of the path does not allow snow removal equipment to enter the Minuteman Trail from the Varnum St. location.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

A true record: Attest

Jack Jones
Director of Housing &
Disability Programs